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To Colonel GSC William E. Shipp  
Military Attache  
American Embassy  
Baghdad, Iraq

19 June 1949

Dear Colonel Shipp,

Many thanks for your kind letter which I received already in February. It is not to my laziness that I have not thanked you earlier. I did not want to trouble you only with a thanksgiving. I did not know what to do, whether to contact your friend you have given me the name, or not, it is a very delicate question.

Meanwhile I have got a sponsor in USA who will provide us with work and accommodation. I and my elder son will have to work as general workers repairing a resort in West Fulton, N.Y. It is possible that we shall be sent to Wentorf Emigration Centre soon, when the local British and IRO authorities will find us good enough to develop into good citizens of the United States. Counting with this possibility, I could not more wait and so I am writing to you.

What to myself and my family as human beings, the best solution would be to disappear in the States as a common general worker, to forget the somewhat dangerous past of an officer who has fought against the Communists. But - I am a soldier. I have got from the Estonian State the highest military education one could have in Estonia... The Estonian people relied on her Army, and thus on me too... I was lucky to escape the terrible fate of my brothers-in-arms, the Estonian staff-officers, who with only a few exceptions were killed or deported by the Russians... In this position I find that I am not allowed simply to emigrate and thus to disappear from the battlefield. I find myself obliged to do all I can, to be as useful as ever possible to my country and to my folk in their desperate fight against the Communists.

I have overthought my former activities and my present position so many times. This activity of mine is in general lines known also to my former Estonian bosses Colonel R. Maasing and Colonel W. Saarsen, both now in Sweden. I find and feel that I could be of use in this fight, I would not say notwithstanding, but just because of all the contacts and experiences which I have had during my work with different nationalities. In any case I would be of much more value to the States as well as to my homeland, when used by the States in my special field of activity instead of being used as a general worker.

There is so much I should like to speak of with you or with your friend here. But you are so far and I am not sure that I as a DP will be let to your friend when not specially recommended. Therefore, frank as I am, I ask for your help! Would you, knowing the habits and the principles of work of the yours, advise me to contact your friend or not? When the answer is positive, would you then be so kind as to write to your friend and tell him what you know about me, so he, when interested, could fix a time when he would like to see and hear me. Perhaps you could send a copy of my first letter to your friend too. Please, be assured once more, that it is not the wish to get a better job, why I am writing to you for the second time already. I am not a snob who dislikes or fears physical work, it is really my sense of duty that makes me write.

I should be really very much obliged to you if you would like to give me a sincere advice in these matters, would it then be positive or negative - it is always better to have the disappointments when starting something as to have them later and then in a worse mood.

In case that your friend will like to see me, I should be glad to get a 3-4 days notice, so I could make me free here. I could be informed through a harmless-looking note sent by my friend "Oscar". I am not quite sure that my correspondence is not under a local curiosity-control here in Lingen, and therefore I think this little caution will be on right place here. I shall post this letter also

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Al Kurgvel  
to  
Colonel Shipp

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outside of Lingen, so to avoid this curiosity-control. I don't mind the official control.

My family is well up. Mrs. Kurgvel is still working in Sick-bay of the local Assembly Centre. Our elder son entered the German University of Bonn and has applied for a scholarship in USA for the case that we will emigrate and he can join his studies with the work offered by our sponsor in West Fulton.

Personally I have been very busy all the time drawing up, copying and translating different documents for the inhabitants of this camp who like to emigrate to the States. There is a lot of work with this documentation. Our camp has sent till now at about 15 families to Wendorf Emigration Center but we have not yet learned of any of them having started the passage.

I am sorry I am causing so many troubles to you by my letters.  
But as I know you, I am sure you do understand my position and my un-  
selfish will and therefore, perhaps you will forgive me.

With many thanks for your useful advices you have and will give to me and with my best wishes for you

Sincerely yours,

Unit 1. Discharge of the vessel. A. Kungel.

[illegible][illegible]